

DESCRIBING MUSIC USING 'MAD T-SHIRT'

MELODY

Register– high or low
Range – wide or narrow
Sequence
Ascending/descending
Scalic or broken chord
movement
Steps or leaps
Ornaments
Melodic ostinato/riff

ARTICULATION

Strummed
Finger-picking
Sustained
Stab
Staccato
Legato
Slurred
Pizzicato/arco
Accents

DYNAMICS

Pianissimo
Piano
Mezzopiano
Mezzoforte
Forte
Fortissimo

Crescendo
Diminuendo

TIME/TEMPO

Number of beats in a
bar
Tempo
Accelerando/
rallentando

STRUCTURE

How many sections
What order
Which sections are the same
Ternary form: ABA
12-bar blues
Pop song structure:
intro/verse/chorus/bridge/
outro

HARMONY

Major or minor
Inversions
Consonant or dissonant
Key change
Added notes in chords
Harmonic rhythm
Drone/pedal note
'Blue' notes

INSTRUMENTS

Strings: violin/viola/cello/double
bass/harp
Woodwind:
flute/oboe/clarinet/bassoon/piccolo
Brass: trumpet/horn/
trombone/tuba
Percussion: timpani/snare/
cymbals (and many others)
Voices: soprano/alto/tenor/bass
Keyboards: piano/harpsichord/
organ/synthesiser
Rock/pop: electric/acoustic guitar/
bass guitar, drumkit, loops/samples

RHYTHM

Duration: long or short
notes
Even or uneven rhythms
Dotted rhythms
Triplets
Syncopation
On a particular beat of
the bar
Rests/pauses
Rhythmic ostinato/riff

TEXTURE

Note or chord
Bass/chords/melody
Thick/thin
Simple/complex
Melody + accompaniment
Counter melody
Parallel/contrary motion
Unison
Imitation
Call & response